

REMARKS

In an Official Action dated January 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 29-49. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection based on the following discussion.

First, Applicants' undersigned attorney does not understand the Examiners objection regarding the drawings. In the Official Action, the Examiner requests new drawings for figures 1 and 4, but corrected figures were already submitted, and approved by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the objection. If the Examiner continues the objection, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate the changes that need to be made that have not already been submitted.

Regarding the §101 rejection, the present method and apparatus claims are clearly directed to patentable subject matter. As stated in the official action, all that is required under §101 is that the operational steps be in the technological arts. Applicants method claims are clearly directed to the electro-mechanical art, as are the apparatus claims. Further, the different elements of the apparatus claims and the steps of the method claims are explicitly inter-related. For instance, in claim 1, a transport having a transport path is recited for conveying mail. Claim 1 further recites a scale, an imaging station and a labeler positioned along the transport path, thereby showing the positional inter-relation of the elements. Further, claim 1 recites a processor that is operable in response to information determined from the imaging station and the scale, thereby showing a functional inter-relation of these elements. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection under §101.

Regarding the rejection under §112, the claims are clear and definite as required under §112. As discussed above, the various elements are either functionally or positionally inter-connected. Nothing further is required. With regard to claims 34 and

35, the claims have been amended to provide clearer antecedent basis for the term scanner, rather than the term imaging station. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections under §112.

With regard to the rejections under §103, Applicants note that none of the prior art references teach or suggest scanning and weighing mail pieces and making sort decision based on determined address information and weight information. In fact, none of the references teaches making sort decisions on the weight of the pieces. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims under §103 over the combination of numerous different references as cited by the Examiner.


In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that issues remain regarding the allowability of this application.



Patent Application No. 09/904,471

Respectfully submitted,

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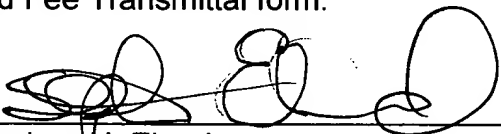
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Petition for Extension Under 37 CFR §1.136(a)

Applicant's undersigned Attorney hereby petitions for an extension of time of ONE month beyond the time period set in the last office communication. The proper fee is enclosed as identified in the enclosed Fee Transmittal form.

May 27, 2005
Date of Certificate


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